

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims provided below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims

1. (currently amended) A ventilating decorative floor covering for loose laying on an upper surface of a floor wherein the floor covering is a single sheet plastics floor covering and has a decorative upper surface and a lower surface on which are formed embossed one or more studs so that, in use, an air gap is formed between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor wherein the floor covering includes one or more particulate materials in the decorative upper surface of the floor covering to provide slip resistance.

2. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the floor covering is chemically or mechanically modified to ensure that there is adequate grip between the lower surface of the floor covering and the floor to which it is applied.

3. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 2 wherein the modification is in the form of a softening and/or a roughening of the lower surface.

4. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 3 wherein the lower surface includes a blowing agent such that the lower surface of the floor covering is roughened.

5. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 3 wherein the lower surface is softened by including additional plasticiser or a chemical blowing agent in the material from which the lower surface of the floor covering is formed.

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 6 wherein a particulate material is embedded in the decorative upper surface of the floor covering which material is at least partially protruding from the upper surface to achieve adequate slip resistance.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 which includes a plastics material selected from the group consisting of a PVC, a plasticised PVC, a polyurethane, an epoxy resin, an acrylic, a plasticised acrylic, a polyurefin, a polyester, and a PVC plastisol.

10. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 which includes a plastics material preferably in an amount of 100 to 200 parts per hundred parts of plastics material (php), a blowing agent preferably in an amount of 0 to 2 php, filler preferably in an amount of from 0 to 100 php, thermal stabiliser preferably in an amount of 1 to 3 php, and/or a pigment preferably in an amount of from 1 to 3 php.

11. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 wherein the floor covering is a heterogenous floor covering made up from a plurality of layers.

12. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 which includes a wear layer.

13. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 wherein the upper surface includes a decorative element such as a pigment and/or a PVC chip.

14. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 which includes a support.

15. (currently amended) A method of laying a floor covering as defined in claim 1 to decorate and ventilate a concrete floor having an upper surface which method includes loose laying on the upper surface of the floor a slip resistant floor covering having a decorative upper surface and a lower surface on which are ~~formed~~ embossed one or more studs and/or other

suitable profiles which provide an air gap between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor.

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A combination of a floor having an upper surface and a slip resistant ventilating decorative floor covering for loose laying on the upper surface of the floor wherein the floor covering is a single sheet plastics floor covering and has a decorative upper surface and a lower surface on which are ~~formed~~ embossed one or more studs so that an air gap is formed between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor.

19. (currently amended) A slip resistant ventilating decorative floor covering for loose laying on an upper surface of a floor wherein the floor covering is a single sheet heterogeneous plastics floor covering and has a decorative upper surface and a lower surface on which are ~~formed~~ embossed one or more studs so that, in use, an air gap is formed between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor, wherein the lower surface of the floor covering is chemically or mechanically modified to ensure that there is adequate grip between the lower surface of the floor covering and the floor to which it is applied.

20. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 which is wound onto a core.

21. (previously presented) A ventilating decorative floor covering for loose laying on an upper surface of a floor wherein the floor covering is a plastics floor covering, has a decorative upper surface and a lower surface on which are formed one or more studs so that, in use, an air

gap is formed between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor, and is wound onto a core.

22. (new) A method for the preparation of a ventilating decorative floor covering for loose laying on an upper surface of a floor which method comprises the steps of:

- providing a support;
- applying a base layer to the support;
- embossing the surface of the base layer with one or more studs;
- applying a top coat to the support;
- applying aggregate material to the top coat; and
- curing the coated support.

23. (new) A method according to claim 22 wherein the method includes a further step of winding the coated support onto a core.

24. (new) A floor covering according to claim 1, further comprising a top layer including said decorative upper surface which includes said one or more particulate materials, and a base layer on which are embossed said one or more studs.

25. (new) A floor covering according to claim 1 further comprising a wear layer including said decorative upper surface which includes said one or more particulate materials, a top layer, and a base layer on which are embossed said one or more studs.

26. (new) A floor covering according to claim 1 further comprising a wear layer including said decorative upper surface which includes said one or more particulate materials, a top layer, a support and a base layer on which are embossed said one or more studs.